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Department of State

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 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1941

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
 TAGS: PFOR, IZ, US
 SUBJECT: INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY IN IRAQ

25X1

2. NO COUNTRY IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS MORE PARANOID THAN IRAQ
 ABOUT INTERFERENCE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND REAL AND
 IMAGINED ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES.

THE REASONS FOR THIS ARE FOUND IN RECENT IRAQI
 HISTORY AND WELL KNOWN TO YOU. SECONDLY, IRAQ HAS PROBABLY
 MOST EFFECTIVE AND OMNIPRESENT INTELLIGENCE SERVICES OF ANY
 ARAB COUNTRY AND THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO JUSTIFY THEIR SPECIAL
 POWER BY UNCOVERING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE, AGAIN REAL OR
 IMAGINED. IN ADDITION, THEY ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE INTELL-
 IIGENCE EXCHANGES WITH THE KGB AND OTHER COMMUNIST SERVICES.
 NOR DO I RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF JOINT OPERATIONS WHERE
 SOVIET-IRAQI INTELLIGENCE SERVICES OBJECTIVES COINCIDE.

25X1

3. I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT SOVIET EMBASSY AND ICP OFFICIALS
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State Dept. review completed

MORI/CDF per C02410819



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HAVE WARNED THE GOI ABOUT THE DANGER OF PERMITTING LARGE
NUMBER OF AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN TO COME TO IRAQ

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THE SOVIETS WOULD LIKE
NOTHING BETTER THAN TO SEE THIS PREDICTION COME TRUE AND
CAN BE COUNTED ON TO DO THEIR BEST TO SEE THAT IT DOES, EITHER
THROUGH INFORMING IRAQIS OF SUCH INDIVIDUALS OR BY PLANTING
DAMAGING INFORMATION. SHOULD AN INCIDENT TAKE PLACE, IT WOULD
HAVE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR FLOURISHING
COMMERCIAL RELATIONS AND IRAQ'S CURRENT LIBERAL VISA POLICY
TOWARD AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN. REGIME WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY
TAKE DRASIC MEASURES AGAINST US.

4. I RECOGNIZE THAT THIS MAY SOUND AS IF I TOO AM BECOMING
PARANOID, BUT I AM ALREADY AWARE OF ONE COMPANY THAT HAS
VISITED IRAQ WHICH HAD LINKS WITH U.S. NAVY INTELLIGENCE.

5. I RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAKE CLEAR TO ALL USG
INTELLIGENCE SERVICES THAT IRAQ IS OFF LIMITES FOR THIS
TYPE OF ACTIVITY. THE RISK TO LEGITIMATE U.S. COMMERCIAL
AND OTHER INTERESTS IS TOO GREAT FOR ANY OPERATIONS DIRECTED
AT OTHER THAN A TARGET OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S. . I
DO NOT KNOW OF ANY SUSPECTED TARGET IN IRAQ AT THIS TIME
WHICH COULD JUSTIFY TAKING THIS RISK.

25X1

6. ALTHOUGH I HAVE CLASSIFIED THIS MESSAGE AS NUDIS I OF
COURSE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO IT BEING GIVEN TO OTHER
AGENCIES.

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